APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"This Council recommends to the Government that women, if duly qualified, be given equal chance with men in all departments of administration and that a fair proportion of appointments in all departments be, for the present, reserved for them.

MR. D. FRANCIS (*Nominated*): I rise to support the resolution. What I want to say is, there should not be any difference between man and woman in the matter of appointments in public service.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I oppose the resolution placed before the House, moved by Mr. A. G. Menon and ably supported by Mr. Francis. Mr. Menon's resolution, as it is, comes directly, most probably copied, from the Indian Penal Code or the Travancore Penal Code, where there is no distinction placed between man and woman.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): My friend is mistaking the two. According to the Travancore Penal Code, women are not sentenced to be hanged.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I am only speaking of the definition. I admit that certain privileges are to be given to women as a whole. To that extent I think they get encouragement from the Government. According to Mr. Menon's general statement that females are to be treated in the lines of males, that is unfair. As long as the resolution is without an amendment, apart from the merits of the resolution, what I want to say is.....

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): There is an amendment.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): That amendment need not be taken into consideration because sufficient notice was not given of that amendment. The resolution, as it is, has to be considered. I most emphatically oppose the principle enunciated by Mr. Menon and I hope he will withdraw the resolution.

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): Sir, in rising to support the resolution moved by Mr. A. G. Menon I am rather distressed to see that not many male members of this House are enthusiastic enough about this motion. Of the chief objections that might be raised against this motion I am quite aware. Objections have been made to me that the place of women is in their homes. Perhaps I myself would not have been here as a representative of the women of Travancore if such an objection had been entertained by the Government. Another objection has been raised and that is, the appointment of women makes the problem of unemployment among men more acute. This is a very legitimate and serious objection. But at the same time it is for this House to recognise that there is a very growing need, a demand for widening the field of work for women. The number of educated women is fast increasing.

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[Mrs. Elizabeth Kuruvila.]

A number of representations have been made by educated women to the Dewan that their condition is hard and that they should get equal chances of employment along with men. It may be clearly seen that women should be given more scope for work in public service and that their field of work should be widened. Sooner or later the public will have to recognise that such a thing has to be done in the changing social order of events. The country will see more and more educated women and some of them will have to be appointed in public service. That is also a fact to be recognised.

Thirdly women's contribution to public life is also a fact which we have to recognise and gracefully acknowledge. We have to understand and, I am sure the House understands and the public recognises, that women, along with men, contribute to the improvement of the social progress of the country and unless they are given equal chances with men, they cannot contribute to its success satisfactorily.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know from the Lady member whether she would like to have recruits to the Police and the Army from the women population?

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): That is not the point. What I say is, women should be given equal chance with men to play their part in public service. Women, generally, do not apply for jobs in the Excise, Police and Forest Departments.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Are women under any disability at present in getting appointments in the departments to which they are duly qualified?

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): I do not think there is anything like that. As far as matters have gone at present, the fact that one is a woman should not stand as a bar in the matter of getting an appointment. Say, for clerical posts, I am sure they are competent enough to hold and carry on work efficiently alongside with men.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is the member aware that in certain western countries even women are recruited to the constabulary?

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*): Yes. But here we have not come to that extent. Women have been appointed as Magistrates and in certain places they are enrolled as Vakils because of their merit. It is that fact we have to consider. If they are duly qualified and if they are competent for the work, they must be given that particular work. All of us are aware that women have a very integral part to play in ordering the public life of a country. Even if the motion is lost now, the same question will recur again and again and unless women occupy their legitimate place, this question is not going to be solved and the country will only be the poorer for it. I strongly support this resolution for these reasons.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Does the member support the resolution merely on the ground that it will give larger scope of employment for women?

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*) : That is one of the grounds.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Are there any other grounds?

MRS. ELIZABETH KURUVILA (*Nominated*) : I have stated them in my speech.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : Sir, I was extremely pleased to hear the speech made by Mrs. Kuruvila, but I am sorry I have to oppose this resolution. Their claims are to be respected and honoured; but there is a limit for that. In the interests of Travancore when the problem of unemployment is getting keener and keener in the case of men, to ignore this to satisfy the claims of women, I say, is rather unfair. We are placing the Government in an awkward situation. If the women are given equal chance along with men, in course of time there will be more unemployment among women also.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Is the member aware that there is unemployment even now among women also?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : Yes.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*) : Is the member aware that for healthy progeny the father also should be healthy.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : Yes.

MR KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Is there ony objection to women being employed?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : No objection. What I say is that there is no necessity for a resolution of this kind. Government are giving every possible help for the betterment of educated women in Travancore. There is the education department where there are Girls' schools and Colleges to give employment to women teachers. I do not like women to go to Government officers for jobs as is obtaining among the male population. Let the women population stick to their homes if they do not get work and improve their household affairs and bestow proper care on children. That will be better and we will have a contented people in the State. So, I strongly oppose the resolution brought forward by Mr. Menon.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ അന്തർവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ദുഷ്യഭാഗങ്ങളെ ഒരു അമൻറ്മെൻറ് കൊണ്ട് പരിഹരിക്കാമെന്ന് ഞാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഒരു അമൻറ്മെൻറുകൊണ്ട് അതിൽ അന്തർവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ദോഷഭാഗങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തി ഇല്ലാത്തതു കൊണ്ട് ആ അമൻറ്മെൻറിനെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് പുറപ്പെടാതെ പ്രമേയത്തെ തന്നെ എതിർക്കേണ്ടിവന്നതിൽ ഏ

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[Mr. P. S. Mahomed.]

നിക്ക് വളരെ മനസ്ഥാപമുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും അതിനെ എതുക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവത്തിയില്ലെന്ന് ആദ്യമായി പ്രസ്താപിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരുടെ പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽ "പുരുഷന്മാരുടെയിടയിൽ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ ധാരാളം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്" എന്ന് പറയുന്നു. ആയതു കൊണ്ട് സ്ത്രീകൾ പുരുഷന്മാരോട് കൂടി മത്സരിക്കുന്നതിന് പുറപ്പെട്ടുകയാണെങ്കിൽ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ പുരുഷന്മാരുടെയിടയിൽ കൂടുതൽ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇടയാകുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്രകാരം സ്ത്രീകളെ കൂടുതലായിപ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പുരുഷന്മാരുടേയും സ്ത്രീകളുടേയും ഇടയിൽ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ ധാരാളമായി വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനിടയാകുകയില്ലയൊ എന്ന് സംശയിക്കുന്നു. പുരുഷന്മാർ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്ന പക്ഷം തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയ്ക്ക് കുറവ് വരുമായിരുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ പുരുഷന്മാരെ കൃഷി ചെയ്യാതെ മടിയന്മാരാക്കി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ വീട്ടു തോറും അലഞ്ഞു നടക്കത്തക്കസ്ഥിതിയിൽ ആക്കിതീർത്തത് ഇന്നത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ രീതിയാണെന്ന് പറയാതെ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ഈവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ രീതി നമ്മുടെ സ്ത്രീകളുടെയിടയിലും ഉള്ളതാണ്. പൊതുവെ പബ്ലിക്കായുള്ള സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കാൻ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കു വേണ്ടുവോളം സൌകര്യമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ബോധം അവർക്കുണ്ടായാൽ ഇന്നു മാന്യമായിട്ടുള്ള നിലയിലും മടിയില്ലാത്ത വിധത്തിലും അവരുടെ വീട്ടു ജോലികളൊ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ കുട്ടികളെ ശുശ്രൂഷിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയോ, ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായ നയത്തെ മാറി ക്രമേണ അവർക്കുവേണ്ട ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കിട്ടണമെന്നുള്ള ആഗ്രഹം നിമിത്തം എല്ലാ സ്ത്രീകളും ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിന് ശ്രമിക്കുകയും തന്നിമിത്തം പൊതുവെരാജ്യത്തിൽ അസമാധാനവും തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയും വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇടയാവുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ പൊതുവെ എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് പ്രവേശനം അനുവദിക്കണം എന്നും കുറെ ഭാഗം ഒഴിച്ചിടണമെന്നും ഉള്ള എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഒരു വിധത്തിലും അനുകൂലിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല. ചേഡി മെമ്പർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടതനുസരിച്ച് സ്ത്രീകളുടെ സംഖ്യ കൂടുതലായി വർദ്ധിച്ച കൂടുതലായി പ്രയത്നിക്കുന്നത് ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ എല്ലാവർക്കും സന്തോഷമാണ്. അതിലേക്ക് ഒരു പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്ന ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കൈകളെ കൂടി ബന്ധിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതു കൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ എതുക്കുന്നു.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Sir , I rise to speak a few words on the resolution before the House. The resolution as it is framed, I think, is too comprehensive to be accepted by this House and I was waiting to hear the arguments of the learned mover of this resolution and tried to convince myself as to the acceptability of this resolution. I am sorry that he was very, very brief.

PRESIDENT: Brief or brave? (*Laughter*)

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : The speech of the lady member also was not sufficiently elucidative to enable me to meet all the points that could have been reasonably raised in support of the resolution. Here Mr. Menon's resolution says, "*that women if duly qualified be given equal chance with men in all departments of administration and that a fair proportion of appointments in all departments be for the present reserved for them*', Strictly speaking, the resolution could be divided into two parts. One is, that women, if duly qualified, be given equal chance with men in all departments and the other is that a fair proportion of appointments in all the departments be reserved for them. My first doubt is whether there is any bar at present standing in the way of women who are duly qualified from getting admission into departments to which they are qualified. We see that in the Medical department Government want to get as many women as possible to minister to the wants of the sick in the hospitals and the Government find very great difficulty for getting the sufficient number. That is my information. When we come to the Education Department Government are prepared to employ women teachers in all the Girls' Schools and the Girls' College and the only difficulty before the Government is that they do not get sufficient number of hands. Government have declared it as their policy to recruit women teachers for Girls' Schools and Colleges. In all ways, Government are giving preference to the claims of women in the departments to which they have been found fitted. My friends who supported the resolution could have well stated the disability which now exists in the way of their getting appointments and I request the lady member to enlighten me on that point. In the absence of such a disability I fail to see why a resolution of this kind should be passed here. We do not say we are against admitting women in service.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Should not the Government know, even if they are inclined to accept the resolution, how the public will view the question?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : As regards that, when the Government launch into a particular policy, the public will express their views very clearly either in this Council or in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly or through the Press and so there is no difficulty about that point.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): May I know from my friend whether he is prepared to give equality of status between man and woman?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The question here is whether equal chances for appointments should be given to women who are duly qualified with men in all departments. My view is that women may be given equal chance with men in certain departments where they are duly qualified and not in all departments.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether the member objects to the inclusion of women in certain departments as absolutely necessary?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): When that question is raised I will answer that.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Is there any department to which women should not be recruited?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): My submission is that women are entitled to get appointments in all the departments. My friend should not throw the onus of proof upon me. He has come for special rights for women and he must establish a case that they are now under certain disabilities. He must not ask me to prove the contrary.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Does not 'qualification' mean educational, physical, moral and mental qualification?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): My friend might question the Educational Director about it.

I have greater objection to the second part of the resolution, that is 'that a fair proportion of appointments in all departments be, for the present, reserved for them.' Sir, I have grown sick of the reservation of seats for particular communities and castes, and I do not want to extend that to sexes. I do not congratulate my friend for throwing this apple of discord in our domestic life. When a question that a sufficient proportion of appointments be reserved arises, it is likely to create a domestic split. My friend need not ask for a reservation of appointments for sexes. Here we see that even in this House the number of interpellations as regards appointments by castes is very great; and hereafter you will see a number of interpellations as regards appointments by sex. If any member does not ask such questions, probably he will find it very inconvenient to get on in the quarter where he expects some rest. (*Laughter*). I would submit that this House has very often expressed clearly that the Government should stand for efficiency. If, without detriment to efficiency, Government could satisfy the needs of particular sexes, the Council would have no objection. I do not think it will be fair to say that a large proportion of appointments should be set apart for females also. When I say this the Lady member or other members interested in the resolution should not misundertand me. I may very clearly tell them that men are more interested in women than women themselves. (*Laughter*). Any benefit derived by men will only go to women. At the same time, I should say that she must be given work and we should be given work in order that society may be given an opportunity to lead a happy life. It will be better for the country that there be peace between husband and wife, son and daughter and leave these matters to be decided by the Government.

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PRESIDENT: When you were making specific reference to this subject, I received a request from a member that the proceedings of the debate on this subject should not be published. I do not think it will be right to rule that way. The debate must be published and included in the proceedings.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I also expect that this would be included in the proceedings. As every one knows, even now women are given appointments in the service when there are men to fill those appointments; women now apply for appointments get them and reap the fruits of the office at the instance and persuasion of men. Requesting all those who are for this resolution not to misunderstand me and requesting them not to press too much for castewar, sexwar, and other statements, I resume my seat.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I view this resolution which has been moved by my friend Mr. Menon with very mixed feelings. I would welcome the practice. On the whole, I think I have more experience than several others here for speaking on a resolution of this character. I have great sympathy with the member who wants that the proceedings of this discussion should not be disclosed. Sir, several of us are married men and in this country where already communal strife has played havoc with public life, should we have a communal strife of a more intense character undermining domestic peace. It would be better if a matter of this kind were left to the wisdom of Government and as many opportunities as women might have of entering various public activities left to them if Government see their way. I am aware that there is no use of discussing this question academically. I think there are a large number of men who might vacate their places and make way for women. It is common knowledge that if the household is given over to the management of the lady of the House, business will be done better than by men and with advantage to the House. It will be equally true of all the departments of Government. I personally do not see there is any objection to women entering the departments. As a person who has the good fortune, or illfortune, to control a large department where there are several women, I am called upon to give reasonable facilities for ladies to enter the department. I am only sorry that this question should have been brought in this formal way and thus an opportunity provided for members to say more than what they intend. I heard with considerable astonishment Mr. Joseph saying that there is a limit to the honour and respect which we show to women. Sir, there is no limit to the honour and respect which we on the official side are prepared to show to women, and, barring Mr. Joseph, which the non-official side would show to women. We would show unlimited honour and respect to women by asking them to look to more important affairs at home and not dissipate their attention on unnecessary things. But, Sir, I do not think that at this time, putting it seriously, a question of this character should be raised. Women are being provided with openings in all departments and they will continue to be provided with such openings for a long time. The Education Department with which I

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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswamy Aiyangar.]

am connected has always shown a tendency to provide them with appointments. In the Universities and Colleges women are employed along with men. I think some of the lecturers in the Lucknow University are women. So in certain walks of life women have shown a certain degree of fitness, and consistently with efficiency and very often with the needs of economy, they will probably continue to be preferred in increasing numbers. I am only sorry that a resolution of this character should be brought, because it gives room to a certain amount of hilarity. Thirty years ago women talked of votes. Ten or fifteen years ago when I suggested that women should not be lumped with lunatics as unfit to sit on municipal councils, I was obliged to write a dissenting note to express my opinion. It was said that I was promoting a grave social danger in a confidential minute. That was fifteen years ago, but much water has flown under the bridge since then. We have had lady workers. We have a gracious lady who is governing the country. It seems to me it is rather late in the day to talk of this when we are trying to get up a certain amount of hilarity by asking women to enter the army, excise and the police. Wherever they are qualified to enter, they will enter. It is not for this Council to give a lead one way or the other. I only request Mr. Menon to withdraw the resolution and leave it to the good sense of the Government. As a representative of the House I may say that in my last official report I have definitely stated that the time has come when by having mixed schools there may be the possibility of having a mixed staff. There may not be any harm, pedagogic or otherwise, in having a mixed staff or as in America in having an entire staff of women. In my department occasionally you do not find a lady as receptive of humour as a man because women have not read *the Punch* long. If they are backward they will become forward once they are given the opportunity. Therefore with the utmost sympathy with Mr. Menon, and with the utmost want of sympathy for Mr. Joseph in his very unchivalrous and unfair attitude to women I suggest that it be left to Government to go on with this question and that the Council see to matters of more immediate concern.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Sir, I have no sympathy with that particular gentleman who requested the President not to publish the proceedings pertaining to the discussion about this resolution. I do not want that our mothers and sisters should be in fool's paradise. They should also know our views on the matter. Therefore I have no sympathy with him.

With regard to the first part of the resolution under discussion, the purport of the resolution is clear. As it is observed by many of our friends there is no bar for duly qualified women to enter into service. If there are duly qualified women for the medical service they are entertained freely. If there are duly qualified women they are entertained in the Education Department. For the military also, they could be entertained if they want. There is therefore no bar. The first part of this resolution is superfluous.

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The second part is impossible. The resolution contemplates that a certain number of posts should be reserved for women. That is not possible. Therefore considering the resolution in general it seems to me entirely out of place especially where our Government show great leniency in the matter of women. Our Government is very chivalrous. We have a lady member here. Considering all these, our Government ought to be congratulated in this matter. In course of time our Government will consider the question very liberally. The lady member also remarked that there is a bit of unemployment among women. To my mind there is no unemployment among women. Theirs is the sacred duty of bringing up citizens. We want efficient, loyal and properly trained citizens. So we want many mothers of Roman type in Travancore and from that point of view, there is no unemployment among women. I therefore do not find my way to support the resolution. Considering all these points, I oppose the resolution introduced by Mr. A. G. Menon.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): From the trend of the discussion in this House, it seems to me that Mr. Menon's resolution is fated to go into oblivion. The House had not the advantage of a speech explaining the resolution either from the mover or the seconder. The only member who spoke in support of the resolution was the lady member. In the absence of an explanation I am at a loss to know how I have to speak on this resolution.

Now it has been very clearly pointed out by the various speakers that the resolution as it stands is both superfluous and impossible to give effect to. I can understand the real motive which prompted my friend Mr. Menon to bring up this resolution. He has come across a number of unemployed women as we all of us have and he thought that this is a case which the Government ought to consider seriously. I can perfectly sympathise with him. It is a very laudable motive. The question need not be argued on broad principles. We might view it purely from a utilitarian standpoint. The education that we are now giving to our girls is bringing about a situation which perhaps is unique in India. Here we have a large number of girls going up for higher education. The result is that the avenues into which their activities were in the past directed are now more or less closed. I mean to say that in the past women did not go in for higher education in large numbers and so in those days we had not this trouble of finding employment for them. They used to be absorbed into the vocation of the home. It is easy to say let them do the same now. But every body knows that is impossible and there is the actual problem of unemployment of educated girls confronting us, and we cannot shut our eyes to it. Now I grant that the resolution is unhappily worded. And as it stands it is impossible for the House to accept it. The member has said that duly qualified women may be given equal chances with men in all departments of administration. This question of equal rights need not have been raised at all. And secondly he wants a reservation of

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[Mr. K. George.]

appointments to women. That, as I have already pointed out, is impossible. I may however draw the attention of the House to one fact, namely, that there is no definite order at present barring the employment of women in any department of the State. But it is a fact that most of the posts in all departments are monopolised by men. In certain departments of course it is impracticable to employ women. They are departments like the military, the excise, the police and perhaps the Devaswom. There are however a large number of appointments in which women can be employed. They are mostly the ministerial posts in the various departments of the State and as a matter of fact employment in such posts is proceeding apace. In the office which is neighbour to mine I think there are two women employed, I mean the Account Office. I may also inform the House that a scheme of employing more women in the ministerial branches of the various departments of the State is under contemplation. However the resolution cannot be accepted as it is. I can only express on behalf of Government the sympathy of Government with the motive that underlies the resolution and I can also assure the House that Government have already done something in the direction of giving suitable employment to unemployed women and that that policy will be continued.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Sir, I left the proposition as it is when speaking while moving it. I knew beforehand what the opinions of some of my friends were. I wanted to see whether they were able enough to speak in an assembly like this.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Maveiikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Should they have not an opportunity of hearing your points?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): The resolution is plain and I did not expect full justice in an assembly constituted of men who have got the superiority complex in them in matters concering women. One cannot fully blame them including myself as one of that class. But we have to see that the advancement of women is part of the world movement of the present day. For the present men monopolise all the offices of the State, excepting a few crumbs here and there thrown out to women. There was at first a paucity of duly qualified women in the State. But that time is long past. And now even graduates are practically going from door to door for employment. My friends on the opposite side were saying that there is absolutely no bar for entertainment of women in the service. As a matter of fact although there is no bar they are not entertained. Whether it is due to the existence of any bar or not I cannot say. In fact, except the solitary instance of two ladies being employed for dealing with two peculiar instruments in the Account Office, not one is there in the Secretariat, not one in the Anchal office, not one in the Registration Department. Why speak of the military and the police? I do not see why they cannot be given ministerial

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posts. If you know anything of Scotland yard you will see that women police are better than men C. I. D. At least that is their experience. I do not want to go so far as that. But this fact must be acknowledged that you are not treating fairly your sisters and daughters as far as Government employment is concerned. Either leave them in the slavish state in which they were up till now and make them stick to the kitchen and to the profession of rearing children and deny them any sort of education. If you give them some sort of education as you give to the male children there is no justification for you to say that, after a girl passes the B. A. or M. A. degree examination they should do duty in the kitchen. You have been the cause of rousing in them feelings, ambitions and ideas.

MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTOMMAN (*Pattanamtitta*): സക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനു മാത്രമായിട്ടാണോ സ്ത്രീകളെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു്? വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സ്ത്രീകൾക്കു് സക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗംതന്നെ വേണോ അതല്ല മറ്റു വല്ല ജോലികളും കിട്ടിയാൽ മതിയോ?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Men also are educated simply for the sake of getting a few rupees by Government employment.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Maveilkara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the member give any instance in which women applicants were refused appointments because they belonged to that sex?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Anyhow, she was not given any employment. I know there are so many applications in the Huzur Office, but no post has yet been given to them. Whether it is due to sex or any other disqualifications, I do not know. The fact of the matter is that they are not given.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Does the member know that females are sufficiently represented in the Education Department? Does it not show that there is no justification for any betterment in that department?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Why should you assign them to the Education Department alone? When they are educated in the same way as you are educated and when their ideas and ambitions are alike and when you are the author of all these, why should you allow them less opportunity?

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Is he aware of any particular sphere in which they are not employed?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I do not see any distinction between man or woman except physiological and I do not see that that distinction will go against their employment in most of the departments.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Is he aware that their services are very largely required in the Medical Department?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Do you want that girls with B. A. and M. A. qualifications should go in as nurses? You cannot ask them to be so. I do not think any man in that position will accept it.

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MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Does he say that a man will go for that place?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Certainly not. There are so many women who are seeking employment. Why should we not give a place to those women who want that? Why should we not give them the post they want instead of asking a B. A. or a M. A. to become a nurse? All this is due to what is called superiority complex in the men's minds. It is no use blaming us. What I want to tell the Council is that we should remove that peculiar disease in our mind so that women may be given equal status—

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is the member aware of the fact that a lady official has been persistently opposing the appointment of girl clerks in her office?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): It may be due to natural causes as like sexes similar to like poles may not attracteach other.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does not Mr. Menon think that he has done a disservice to the women of Travancore from the way in which he has worded his resolution?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I do not think so. I am sure I have done a service and this is only a first taste of what you will get or what you will be made to feel. You may disregard all their demands at present, but surely a time will come when the very existence of this House will depend upon their vote. Anyway, so far as this resolution is concerned, I only wanted to draw the attention of Government on this matter. It is all very well to say that posts which are thrown open to men in all departments are thrown open to women also. Unfortunately, the fact is that if they apply they would not be appointed and I only want that such a state of affairs should be remedied.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Has the member any statistics to prove that a larger percentage of applications from women has been rejected than from men?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I know that a lot of applications have been received for places in the Huzur Cutcherry and Anchal Department and none has been appointed.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am asking my friend whether he has got statistics to prove that.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Absolutely none; there is no necessity for undergoing that trouble when the matter is so very plain.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Should you not explain that by references to facts and figures?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I have no charm in collecting statistics and that is why I did not do it. My object was only to draw the attention of Government to this matter and, as I am assured by the Chief Secretary that the Government are paying their attention to the question, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

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